

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 157. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, May 28, 1863.

I. Before a Military Commission, which convened at Trenton, Tennessee, August 28, 1862, pursuant to Special Orders, No. 45, dated August 25, 1862, Headquarters Central Division of the Mississippi, and of which Lieutenant Colonel D. B. ROBINSON, 62d Illinois Infantry, is President, were arraigned and tried—

1st. *S. P. Johns.*

CHARGE I.—“Treason.”

*Specification*—“In this; that the said *S. P. Johns* was associated with a party in arms against the United States Government when captured at a ferry across Obien river, on or about the 16th day of August, 1862, while attempting to proceed south.”

CHARGE II.—“Violation of his oath of allegiance.”

*Specification*—“In this; that the said *S. P. Johns*, after having taken the oath of allegiance to the United States Government, was associated with a party in arms against the Government of the United States, thereby violating his oath.”

To which charges and specifications the accused, *S. P. Johns*, pleaded “Not Guilty.”

#### FINDING.

The Commission, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, *S. P. Johns*, as follows:

#### CHARGE I.

Of the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

Of the CHARGE, “Guilty.”

#### CHARGE II.

Of the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

Of the CHARGE, “Guilty.”

## SENTENCE.

And the Commission does therefore sentence him, *S. P. Johns*, “*To be shot to death at such time and place as the Commanding General may direct,*” two-thirds of the members concurring therein.

2d. *W. H. Morris.*

CHARGE I.—“Treason.”

*Specification*—“In this; that the said *W. H. Morris* was in arms against the Government of the United States when captured at a ferry across Obien river, on or about the 16th day of August, 1862, while attempting to proceed south with an armed party for the purpose of joining the rebels.”

CHARGE II.—

*Specification*—“In this; that the said *W. H. Morris* had taken up arms against the United States Government after having taken the oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States, thereby violating said oath.”

To which charges and specifications the accused, *W. H. Morris*, pleaded “Not Guilty.”

## FINDING.

The Commission, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, *W. H. Morris*, as follows:

## CHARGE I.

Of the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

Of the CHARGE, “Guilty.”

## CHARGE II.

Of the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

Of the CHARGE, “Guilty.”

## SENTENCE.

And the Commission does therefore sentence him, *W. H. Morris*,  
“ *To be shot to death at such time and place as the Commanding General may direct, two-thirds of the members concurring therein.*”

III..In compliance with the 5th section of the act approved July 17, 1862, the proceedings in the cases of *S. P. Johns* and *W. H. Morris* have been submitted to the President of the United States, who directs that the sentence *to be shot to death* be commuted in each case to confinement for one year from the 20th day of May, 1863.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*